

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-contact method of coating an elongated band with liquid material dispensed in a pattern from an outlet of a liquid dispenser, the outlet having a dispensing axis and the band having a pair of opposite major surfaces and a pair of opposite side edges extending between the pair of major surfaces, comprising:

moving the band in a direction toward the outlet with one of the major surfaces of the band facing the outlet;

guiding the band spaced from the outlet with one of the side edges of the band positioned closer, in a direction of the dispensing axis, to the outlet than the other side edge of the band; and

dispensing liquid material from the outlet toward the band with the pattern of the dispensed liquid material expanding during flight toward the band so as to coat the band with the liquid material.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the outlet has a dispensing axis and the guiding step comprises:

supporting the band upstream of the outlet with the one side edge of the band positioned closer to the outlet than the other side edge of the band; and

moving the band in alignment with the dispensing axis of the outlet.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing step comprises:

dispensing the liquid material from the outlet as a continuous bead toward the major surface of the band facing the outlet; and

coating the pair of major surfaces of the band with the bead of liquid material.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-contact method of coating an elongated band with liquid material dispensed in a pattern from an outlet of a liquid dispenser, the outlet having a dispensing axis and the band having a pair of opposite major surfaces and a pair of opposite side edges extending between the pair of major surfaces, comprising:

moving the band in a direction toward the outlet with one of the major surfaces of the band facing the outlet;

guiding the band spaced from the outlet, the dispensing axis of the outlet intersecting the major surface of the band facing the outlet at an oblique angle; and

dispensing liquid material from the outlet toward the band with the pattern of the dispensed liquid material expanding during flight toward the band so as to coat the band with the liquid material.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein the guiding step comprises:
supporting the band upstream of the outlet; and
moving the band in alignment with the dispensing axis of the outlet.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing step comprises:
dispensing the liquid material from the outlet as a continuous bead
toward the major surface of the band facing the substrate; and
coating the pair of major surfaces of the band with the bead of liquid
material.

7. (WITHDRAWN) A guide adapted to be mounted on a shaft for guiding an
elongated band toward an outlet of a liquid dispenser capable of dispensing liquid
material onto the band, the band having a pair of opposite major surfaces and a pair
of opposite side edges extending between the pair of major surfaces, comprising:
a guide body; and
a first tapered surface formed on said guide body and capable of
supporting the band with one side edge of the band positioned closer to the outlet
than the other side edge of the band.

8. (WITHDRAWN) The guide of claim 7 wherein said first tapered surface is capable of engaging one of the major surfaces of the band so that the other major surface of the band faces the outlet.

9. (WITHDRAWN) The guide of claim 7 further comprising a second tapered surface formed on said guide body and capable of engaging one of the side edges of the band, the second tapered surface intersecting said first tapered surface and being disposed generally transverse to said first tapered surface.

10. (WITHDRAWN) A liquid dispensing system for coating an elongated band with liquid material, the band having a pair of opposite major surfaces and a pair of opposite side edges extending between the pair of major surfaces, comprising:

a liquid dispenser having a dispensing outlet capable of dispensing liquid material onto the band;

a shaft operatively connected to said liquid dispenser; and
a guide supported on said shaft and having a surface for supporting the band with one of the side edges of the band positioned closer to the outlet than the other side edge of the band.